



NEWS RELEASE

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Da Vinci Fire Suspect Charged With Arson

A Los Angeles man suspected of setting fire to a downtown apartment complex under construction, causing one of the largest structure fires in Los Angeles history, was charged today with arson, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Dawud Abdulwali (dob 4/23/59) is scheduled to be arraigned today at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 30, in case BA436838. Abdulwali is charged with one count each of arson of a structure and aggravated arson. The complaint also alleges the blaze was started with an accelerant.

Prosecutors will ask that his bail be set at \$1 million.

Deputy District Attorneys Sean Carney and Joy Roberts with the Arson Unit are prosecuting the case.

Prosecutors said the accelerant was used to start the Dec. 8, 2014 fire on the fourth floor of the seven-story Da Vinci complex. No one was injured.

But the massive blaze destroyed the complex at West Temple Street and North Fremont Avenue, causing tens of millions of dollars in damage, prosecutors said.

If convicted, Abdulwali faces a possible maximum sentence of 10 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Los Angeles City Fire Department's Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice

for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.